

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 18, 2003. Claims 1-46 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 34, 39, 41, and 42 are in independent form. Claims 1-46 have been amended as to formal matters and/or to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17-20, 22-25, 29, 31-33, 39, 41-43, 45, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,483,574 (Yuyama); that Claims 3, 5, 26, and 28 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,317,629 (Watanabe); and that Claims 4, 7, 10-14, 21, 27, 30, 34-38, and 44 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,546 (Nakamura et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that independent Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 34, 39, 41, and 42, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time. The apparatus includes first and second communication units, a power supply unit, a detection unit, and a controller.

The first communication unit, which is connectable with a first telephone line, is adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby and to communicate with a remote partner via

the first telephone line. The second communication unit, which is connectable with a second telephone line, is adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby and to communicate with a remote partner via the second telephone line. The power supply unit is adapted to supply power to the first and second communication units.

The detection unit is adapted to detect actuation factors for the first and second communication units. When the first and second communication units are on standby, the controller controls the power supply unit to supply power to the second communication unit but not to supply power to the first communication unit, in order to retain the first communication unit as it is on standby, in response to detection of an actuation factor for the second communication unit by the detection unit.

One of the notable features of Claim 1 is that the first and second communication units are respectively connectable with different remote partners at the same time, thus making it is possible to conduct the same type of communication with different partners separately, utilizing respectively different telephone lines. For example, while a document sheet is being sent by a facsimile communication via a telephone line, another document sheet can be sent at the same time by a facsimile communication via another telephone line.¹

Yuyama relates to a telephone set with an audio system circuit 22 and a data system circuit 24. As understood by Applicant, Yuyama discloses that the audio system circuit

¹ Note that the examples presented herein are for illustrative purposes. It should not be construed that the present invention is limited in any way by the illustrative examples.

22 carries out a talking function of the telephone set via a telephone line 4, and a data terminal equipment 3 conducts transmission/reception of data via the data system circuit 24 and a terminal connecting cable 5. The talking function (i.e., speech communication) and the transmission/reception of data (i.e., data communication) can be executed at the same time. That is, different types of communication may be performed at the same time.

Nothing has been found in Yuyama that is believed to teach or suggest a communication apparatus adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines "connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time," wherein the apparatus includes "a detection unit adapted to detect actuation factors for said first and second communication units," and "a controller adapted to, when said first and second communication units are on standby, control said power supply unit to supply power to said second communication unit but not to supply power to said first communication unit, in order to retain said first communication unit as it is on standby, in response to detection of an actuation factor for said second communication unit by said detection unit," as recited in Claim 1.

Applicant submits that Yuyama is silent regarding an apparatus that is able to execute communications *of the same type* at the same time.

Further, the communication apparatus of Claim 1 includes a power supply unit adapted to supply power to the communication units of the apparatus as needed. For example, when one of the telephone lines is used to conduct a facsimile communication (i.e., when a CI signal is detected or a transmission is instructed to be performed), power is supplied to a communication unit for that telephone line to cause the communication unit to shift to an

operational state. When a telephone line is not used, power is not supplied to a communication unit for the unused telephone line to retain the communication unit in a standby state. By such an arrangement, power consumption in the claimed communication apparatus is reduced.

In contrast to Claim 1, Yuyama is understood to disclose that power is supplied from a switching system 1 via the telephone line 4 to a power supply circuit 21, and then to the audio system circuit 22 and the data system circuit 24 at the same time. On receiving power, the data system circuit 24 operates to enable transmission/reception to/from the data terminal equipment 3, such that the data terminal equipment 3 is connected to the telephone line 4 (see column 4, lines 32-36). If there is an abnormal current flow at the data system circuit 24, that is, if the current flow exceeds a predetermined amount, a current limiting portion 23 cuts off power to the data system circuit 24. However, except in such an abnormal state, even when the audio system circuit 22 or the data system circuit 24 is not carrying out a communication, power is always supplied to both circuits to retain them in an operational state. Therefore, even when the telephone line 4 and the terminal connecting cable 5 are not used, the power supplied to the audio system circuit 22 and the data system circuit 24 never is shifted to the standby state. As a result, Yuyama fails to disclose or suggest the power reduction feature of Claim 1.

Unlike Yuyama, in the communication apparatus of Claim 1, even when power is supplied from the power supply unit to a communication unit for a telephone line in order to conduct a communication via that telephone line, while power is not supplied from the power supply unit to a communication unit on standby for another telephone line, power can be supplied to the communication unit on standby if a communication occurs on the other telephone

line. In contrast, as mentioned above, Yuyama is understood to teach that even when the telephone line 4 or the terminal connecting cable 5 is not used, power is never shifted to the standby state. Therefore, this feature of Claim 1 cannot be realized based on the disclosure of Yuyama.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Yuyama, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Independent Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 34, 39, 41, and 42 include features similar to those discussed above. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 10 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time. The apparatus includes first and second communication units, a storage unit, a detection unit, a power supply unit, and an output unit.

The first communication unit, which is connectable with a first telephone line, is adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby and to communicate with a remote partner via the first telephone line. The second communication unit, which is connectable with a second telephone line, is adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby and to communicate with a remote partner via the second telephone line. The storage unit adapted to store data received by the second communication unit.

The detection unit is adapted to detect actuation factors for the first and second communication units; the power supply unit is adapted to supply power to the first and second

communication units; and the output unit is adapted to output data received by the first and second communication units. When the first and second communication units are in a standby state of not receiving power from the power supply unit, the following may occur:

In response to detection of an actuation factor for the first communication unit by the detection unit, the first communication unit shifts from the standby state to an operational state of receiving power from the power supply unit in order to receive data, while the second communication unit is retained on standby, and the first communication unit outputs the received data to the output unit. In response to detection of an actuation factor for the second communication unit by the detection unit, the second communication unit shifts from the standby state to an operational state of receiving power from the power supply unit in order to receive data, stores the received data in the storage unit, and enables the first communication unit to shift from the standby state to the operational state. The first communication unit outputs the data stored in the storage unit to the output unit.

Nakamura et al. relates to a communication system with a computer modem function. As understood by Applicant, Nakamura et al. teaches that the system switches from a PC-FAX mode in which a PC may receive facsimile communications to a FAX mode in which a facsimile apparatus receives facsimile communications when it is detected that power to the PC is turned off.

Applicant submits that a combination of Yuyama and Nakamura et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a communication apparatus adapted to "accommodate a plurality of telephone lines connectable

with respective different remote partners at a same time," wherein the apparatus includes "a detection unit adapted to detect actuation factors for said first and second communication units," and wherein, when the first and second communication units are in a standby state of not receiving power from the power supply unit, "in response to detection of an actuation factor for said first communication unit by said detection unit, said first communication unit shifts from the standby state to an operational state of receiving power from said power supply unit in order to receive data, while said second communication unit is retained on standby, and said first communication unit outputs the received data to said output unit," and "in response to detection of an actuation factor for said second communication unit by said detection unit, said second communication unit shifts from the standby state to an operational state of receiving power from said power supply unit in order to receive data, stores the received data in said storage unit, and enables said first communication unit to shift from the standby state to the operational state, and said first communication unit outputs the data stored in said storage unit to said output unit," as recited in Claim 10.

The above discussion regarding Yuyama is also applicable here. Applicant submits that Nakamura et al. fails to disclose or suggest shifting from a standby state to an operational state to reduce power consumption, and therefore fails to remedy all the deficiencies of Yuyama.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 10 is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claim 34 includes a similar power reduction feature as discussed above. Therefore, Claim 34

also is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

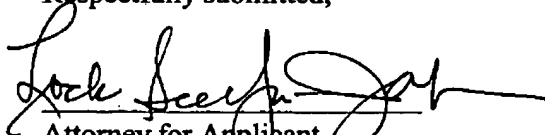
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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